have continued to express strong opposition to any supply of military equipment to Pakistan including supply of nuclear, weapons delivery capability.

Agreement signed between India and South Africa

1118. *iHRl* SURESH KALMADI: Will (JIB Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) wtefcher it is a fact that India and South have signed an agreemen envisaging cooperation in political trade, economic **an<j** cultural fields a . well as in science and technology; and

(b) [f >< what are the details there of?

MSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SKRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (! reement to set up a Ministerial level Inter-Governmental loint Commission between India and Sou til Africa was initiated during the visit of H.E. Mr. Aziz Pahad. Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of South Africa to India from November 24 to 28, 1994. Under the agreement, which will be formally signed during the forthcoming visit to India of the President of South Africa which is expected to be in lanuary 1995, cooperation between the two countries is envisaged in political, trade, economic, cultural, scientific and technical cooperation fie[1]

Meeting «if the American Federation of Indian Muslims

UI9. SHR1 K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be please J io stare:

la) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the 'India West' of October 28, 1994 about the meeting of the American Federation of Muslims from India held in Los Angeles on October 21. 1994.

(b) whether it is a fact that false and defamatory speeches were made there against the people and Government of India;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Charged' Affaires of the Indian Embassy in Washington, attended and addressed this conference; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY' OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS fSHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) ta) Ves, Sir.

(b) According to Government's infor mation, .{bough there was some criticism of the treatment of minority communi- ties in some of the speeches at the inaugural session of the convention, appreciation was also expressed of certain measures adopted to address their con-

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Charged' Affairs was invited by the organisers to attend the inaugural session of the conference as a Special Guest. He spoke briefly on the occa sion, .referring to India's religious, linguistic and cultural diversity and emphasising the crucial importance of pluralism and secularism in India.

India's claim for membership in the UN security council

1120. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Govern ment of India asked for inclusion of India in Security Council of UNO:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some other countries also claimed for the membership of the UNO Security Council; i

fdl if so. the details thereof; and

(c) in this situation what action Go- vernment of India propose to take so that India will be included as a penna- I nent member of UNO Security Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L, BHATIA): (a) to *(e)* The leader of tbe Indian delegation to the 49th Session of the UN General Assembly stated in the general debate that, given any criteria—population size of economy or future potential, contribution *to* (he maintenance of international r>eace and security and to peace-keeping-India deserve to be a permanent member of [he- Security Council. Other countries with also announced a claim to permanent membership during the genera! debate were Germany, Japan, Brazil and Nigeria.

The General Assembly's Working Group on the "Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Permanent Membership of the Security Council' is not discussing individual candidatures, but the principles- and the criteria that should govern an expansion. Member-States have not, there, fore, being required to take a stand on the candidature of any country.

भारत का भौगोलिक क्षेत्रफल

1121. श्री नरेश यादव : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ ने सभी देशों का क्षेत्रफल प्रकाशित किया है ; यदि हां, तो संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ के 1952 और 1953 के के वार्षिक प्रकाशन में भारत का क्रमश: कितना क्षेत्रफल दर्शाया गया था :

(ख) उन दोनों प्रकाशनों में दर्शाए गए क्षेत्रफल में अंतर होने के क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) क्या भारत सरकार ने उस पर अपनी आपत्ति प्रकट की है और यदि हां, तो कब और यह आपत्ति किस स्तर पर प्रकट की गई ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर०एल० भाटिया) :(क) वर्ष 1966 से संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने अपने वार्षिक प्रकाशनों में सदस्य देशों के क्षेत्रों का उल्लेख करना बंद कर दिया है। वर्ष 1952 के वार्षिक प्रकाशन में भारत का भू-क्षेत्रफल 3,333,845 वर्ग कि०मी० बताया गया है ।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Visit of the President of Iran to India

11:2. SHRI R'NI RAN.fAN JJAHU: Will the Mi*!.: of EXTERNAL AF-FAIRS be pleased (O state;

(a) whether President of Iran Mr. Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who was to visit India on October 20, 1994, cancel led his visit; if so. the reasons jhcrefor; ana

(b) when he is likely to visit India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Dates were under consideration for the Si ate visit by the President of Iran to India during Ocober, 1994. Meanwhile, Iranians suggested that the visit could take place next year.

(hj Government will loo I, ; dates at an appropriate time next

Coimieruig the adverse puMKdafy in foreign countries due plagai®

1123. SHRI RAJNI RANL-vw SAHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether any measures were taken by Government to counter adverse publicity the country has got in foreign* countries due to outbreak of Plague in ihe months of September/October, 1994;

jjj) if so, the details thereof; and

kkk) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE, IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) *ya)* Yes, Sir.